



Coronavirus response - Federation University Australia

Wednesday 28 October 2020

Dear Student,

Over the past week, Federation's COVID-19 Transition Control Group (TCG) has been closely monitoring the Victorian Government announcements in relation to the easing of COVID-19 restrictions.

While there are still many restrictions in place, we are pleased to see that our students can start to engage in some of their favourite activities and see family and friends in limited numbers. We are encouraged by the very low daily case numbers.

We strongly encourage you to read the restrictions information for [Melbourne metro areas](#) and [regional Victoria](#) for detailed advice.

Staff begin to transition to campus from November

From November to February next year, we will gradually increase the number of staff on campus. We are starting a slow process of bringing small groups of staff to campus, after a long period of working from home. However, working from home will continue for many staff though over summer.

We have many staff, particularly academic and teaching staff, keen to recommence working with students on campus.

For the majority of our university students, studying online will continue until the end of this year, but we are looking forward to offering more face-to-face engagement through small group classes from Semester 1 next year. Large lectures will be delivered online in 2021.

Staying COVID safe on campus

To make sure that all of our staff and students remain safe, we will be guided by the following principles under our *COVIDSafe Plan*:

- physical distancing and available space requirements maintained
- increased record-keeping for contact tracing
- Hazard Identification, Risk Assessment and Control plans (HIRAC) in place for all on-campus activity with safety measures put in place by staff
- wearing of face masks on campus
- additional cleaning.

Increased contact tracing requirements

The Victorian Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) now requires us to keep more information about who is on campus and when.

We already have activity tracking in place and students will be asked to provide their details as they move around campus. We'll provide further details on what will be required and when the changes come into effect in due course.

This is a really important safety measure. It means if we have a student or staff member test positive to COVID-19 we can identify close and secondary contacts much more quickly to let them know and get tested.

A close contact is someone who has spent the following time with a person who is confirmed as having COVID-19:

- 15 minutes face-to-face
- two hours in the same room.

A secondary contact is someone who has spent this amount of time with a close contact.

Reporting a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19

Remember, if you are confirmed or suspected of having COVID-19, even if your symptoms are mild, it is vital that you remain isolated, do not come to campus and let us know.

- During business hours: call the **COVID-19 Hotline on (03) 5122 6300** (8.30 am to 5.00 pm).
- Outside business hours: call the **Emergency phone number 1800 333 732** for confirmed cases (positive test result). Call the COVID-19 Hotline for

suspected cases and negative COVID-19 test results (leave a message to be followed up the next morning).

Stay safe.

On behalf of the COVID-19 Transition Control Group



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